

Vancouver schedules Burnt Bridge Creek annexation information fairs

The City of Vancouver is holding a series of five annexation information fairs this month to consider citizen input regarding annexations generally and, in particular the Burnt Bridge Creek annexation currently in process.

The Burnt Bridge Creek annexation is mostly south of Fourth Plain Boulevard, along the city's northern boundary extending as far east as NE 162nd Avenue and consists of 882 acres.

Signatures of property owners representing 75 percent of the assessed value of the area were obtained as a precursor for the annexation. The next official step in the annexation will be a February review by the state Boundary Review Board—often, but not always a formality.

City officials are considering whether the time is appropriate to attempt to annex the remaining area within the city's urban growth boundary that is within the boundary of Fire District #5. The Vancouver Fire Department and Fire District 5 merged several years ago, and the city already is providing water and other services in that area.

But a step from the Burnt Bridge Creek annexation, which is large, to annexing the remaining area within the fire district would be huge. If the Boundary Review Board were to OK an annexation that large, the annexation would be the largest in the city's history—larger than the Cascade Park annexation, which brought some 58,000 people into the city.

An annexation that large would catapult Vancouver into being the second largest city in the state of Washington. Currently it is the fourth largest, behind Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane.

Hence, the annexation fairs. These fairs, providing citizens an opportunity to talk with city officials, are scheduled for 6 to 8:30 p.m.

The first is Thursday, Jan. 12, in the Northwest Regional Training Center, 11606 NE 66th Street.

Additional fairs are Thursday, Jan. 19, in the Hazel Dell Sewer District office, 8000 NE 52nd Court; Tuesday, Jan. 24, in Prairie High School, 11500 NE 117th Avenue; Thursday, Jan. 26, in Pacific Middle School, 2017 NE 172nd Avenue; and Monday, Jan. 30, in Covington Middle School, 11200 NE Rosewood Avenue.

For further information, call **619-1092**.

Library trustees to listen to constituents comments about Internet filters Monday

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library District board of trustees will review answers to an earlier posed question of what to do about uncensored Internet content during a work session, 4-to 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, in the Washougal Community Library, 1661 C Street.

The question posed by the trustees is as follows:

The library's current Internet-access policy requires mandatory filtering of sexually-explicit Web sites, with adults 17 and older able to turn off the filter. Should the district change its policy to eliminate the ability of adults to turn off the filter?

The board of trustees will not take public comment during the workshop, nor will it take any official action. A regular meeting of the trustees follows at 6:15 p.m.

News briefs

The Vancouver office for Gov. **Christine Gregoire** has been mobbed from east Vancouver to the Vancouvercenter, 700 Washington Street, Suite 300, reports **Jim Jacks**, the governor's southwest Washington liaison officer. Jacks can be reached at a new telephone number, **816-2216**. ✂ First class U.S. postage for an ordinary letter increases to 39 cents from 37 cents on Sunday, Jan. 8. Postcard rates go to 24 cents from 23 cents. It is the first first-class postage rate increase since March 2002.

Calendar

Reservations are required for tonight's 7-to-9 p.m. lantern tour of Fort Vancouver, guided by members of the U.S. National Park Service. Participation is \$3 per person. Individual lanterns will be provided. Call **696-7655**, extension **10**, to sign on. ✂ C-TRAN executive director **Lynne Griffith** and Washington State University chancellor **Hal Dengerink** will arrive on the WSU Vancouver Salmon Creek campus at 8:53 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9, from the Salmon Creek Park & Ride, to inaugurate the new C-TRAN Salmon Creek Shuttle service, connecting the university and neighboring Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital with the park & ride and businesses in be-

tween. The service will continue 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Friday headlines from at home and around the world

[Dollars Corner Pub to try private club route to get around smoking ban--Columbian, **Jose Paul Corona**](#)
[Scouts to pick up Christmas trees--Columbian](#)
[Klaus Coleman operates crane from 165 feet up to put eight-story Firstenberg Tower together on Southwest Washington Medical Center campus--Columbian, **Tom Vogt**](#)
[Forty cents more per \\$100 purchase buys roads in Clark County and state--Oregonian, **Allan Brettman**](#)
[House prices keep rising as sales slow--Seattle Times, **Elizabeth Rhodes**](#)
[Six more GIs die in Iraq--Washington Post, **Nelson Hernandez** and **Fred Barbash**](#)
[Portland 17th fittest city in U.S. but does not make fattest list; Seattle, last year's Number 1 fittest drops to 8th--USA TODAY, AP](#)

Friday on the air

Columbia River Task Force Meeting (1/4)—4:30 p.m. CVTV
Portland Trail Blazers at the Hornets (live)—5 p.m. KXL
Animal Control Hearings (12/14)—7 p.m. CVTV
Portland Winter Hawks at Tri-City (live)—7 p.m. KCMD
Community Inspiration Celebration (12/20)—7:31 p.m. CVTV
Bravo! Vancouver: Handel's The Messiah—9 p.m. CVTV
Vancouver Children's Opera: The Magic Flute—11:30 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Walker Evian leaving no fingerprints. ☞ **Gail Pollock** enhancing reading list. ☞ **Tim Moyer** inviting email responses. ☞ **Wayne Branch** using big words. ☞ **Dean Lookingbill** absolutely upbeat. ☞ **Friday**, gray and lightly rainy, 52. **Saturday**, cloudier more showers, 47. **Sunday**, showers, 44.